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White House Conference on Small Business

Max S. Baucus

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Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

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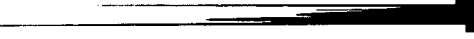
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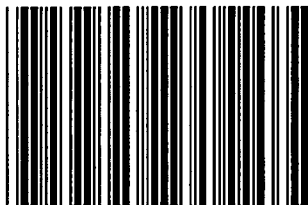
 **August-1979**


 **White House Conference on Small Business**

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)


 **08/03/1979**



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BAUCUS

grow in ways that are salutary for the future of the African continent.

Mr. President, I ask that the editorial in the Christian Science Monitor of July 24, 1979, be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

AFRICA'S OAU: BOISTEROUS BUT BLOOMING

You can look at the just-ended meeting of the Organization for African Unity in

as Morocco, Ivory Coast, and Gabon already have had useful experience.

The OAU, in short, is moving in positive directions. The most important dealings and decisions may continue to take place in the corridors. But the organization is beginning to grow in ways that are salutary for the future of the African continent. As in all things, a good measure of patience is in order. ●

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, preparations for the White House Conference on Small Business to be held in January 1980, are well underway. Small businessmen and women from all parts of the country have been asked to contribute their ideas to the White House organizers of the conference.

As part of that process, White House Small Business Open Forums are being held in cities all across our Nation. One of these recently was held in Billings, Mont. Senator Max Baucus of Montana and a member of the Senate Select Small Business Committee was the keynote speaker at that particular open forum.

His remarks are an important contribution to the national debate on how we can improve the economic health of small businesses. For that reason, I ask that Senator Baucus' speech be printed in the RECORD and commend it to my colleagues.

The speech follows:

SPEECH BY SENATOR MAX BAUCUS

I'd like to welcome you to this Open Forum. It's a pleasure to see so many friends and familiar faces in the audience.

I'm excited to see such a good showing, and I hope you will carry your participation one step further by keeping in touch with me. Don't hesitate to call me whenever you have an opinion or problem you feel I should know about, on small business or any other subject.

Today I would like to make a few comments about the state of small business. Then I would like to take a few moments to discuss some of the larger issues we face as a State, and as a Nation.

This Open Forum is one of sixty being held around the country—each one to provide direction for the White House Conference on Small Business which will be held in January.

These meetings, however, are serving an even more important purpose: they are sending a message back to Washington. They are underscoring something we've known all along: the strength of this nation's small businesses is critical to the strength of our economy.

There will not be a healthy national economy unless small business is healthy. And, as we all know, a healthy small business community is doubly important in States like Montana.

But despite that fact, small business too often is taken for granted. Rather than promoting small businesses, too often government stifles and smothers you and your business. Government regulation is excessive: the tax code is growing increasingly complex. Too often government's efforts to help small businesses, end up having exactly the opposite effect.

But it's not all bad news. The situation is beginning to improve. Despite the problems, I sense that the small business community is finally beginning to wake up Washington. It's about time. And this Conference can help wake up Washington more quickly.

Washington is finally learning that there is nothing small about small business.

Nearly one-half of our Gross National Product is the result of independent men and women like you. There's nothing small about that.

Independent businesses are the leading developers of innovative ways to do business. There's nothing small about that.

And there's nothing small about an American tradition which has been the foundation of our economy for over two centuries.

Twice each year I've held small business conferences with members of the small business community and officials from dozens of government agencies. And I've held hundreds of meetings and conversations with you and other small business men and women throughout the State. They've been helpful.

You have urged me to get a handle on how the government can support small business without overburdening it. You expressed concern that the government is removing too many of the incentives for a healthy free enterprise system. And, you and other Montanans told me to get government off your backs. I listened to you. When I got to the Senate I pushed hard for membership on the Senate Small Business Committee; to put me in a better position to act on your concerns.

I had quite a bit of competition for my seat on the Committee. This year, more Senators requested assignment to the Senate Small Business Committee than any other Senate Committee. That's really something when you consider that more Senators requested the Small Business Committee than the prestigious Appropriations, Finance, or Judiciary Committees.

In addition, the SBA is becoming more of an advocate. One of the primary responsibilities of the Small Business Committee is to authorize funds for the Small Business Administration.

Yet, the SBA should be more than just a lending institution. To me it can—and should—serve as your advocate with federal agencies.

One step in this process has already taken place.

The SBA Office of Advocacy now represents small business interests at high levels of government. But there is still a great deal more to be done, and you can be certain that as long as I have a role in this area, I will insure that the SBA is an advocate.

A promising program now developing within the Small Business Administration is its bank certification and lending program. Under this program, the SBA could delegate its lending authority, and application procedures for both direct loans and loan guarantees to certified financial institutions.

It will not only improve the cumbersome application process from the SBA, but it will speed up the amount of time it takes to process an SBA loan.

The bank certification and lending program is now in the pilot stage. If the results are as promising as I expect them to be, I expect we will see the SBA get out of the loan processing business.

Initiatives to help small business are also being developed in the other Committees on which I serve. On the Finance Committee, for example, I am working on tax legislation to help small businesses. And, I chair the Subcommittee on Internal Revenue Service Oversight.

Too many times IRS has dealt unfairly with small businessmen. Small businesses contribute more than their share to the Federal Treasury and I want to make certain that they are treated more fairly in the future.

One way to do that would be for the Inter-

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nal Revenue Service pay attorneys' fees whenever it loses a court case against a small business owner. Such a plan would protect small businesses from frivolous treatment by IRS officials. I am the chief sponsor of legislation to do just that—and that should help stop these frivolous and oppressive suits.

In the Judiciary Committee, I am dealing with scores of bills affecting government regulation. This Committee deals with everything from antitrust to the criminal code, but one bill I think you might be interested in is the regulatory flexibility bill:

This bill, which I am co-sponsoring, calls for a two-tiered approach to government regulation—one for big business—another for small business. It requires each government agency—before enacting any new regulations—to evaluate the impact on small businesses. If it is determined that a new regulation is inappropriate for small business, then, under my proposal, the agency would be forced either to exempt small business from its rule, or to rewrite its rule in a manner more appropriate to the small business community.

I think this is a good approach. It's just common sense. For when all is said and done, I suspect we will find that most small and medium sized businesses can—and should—be exempted from much of the regulation and paperwork imposed by the federal government.

I'd like to shift gears somewhat, and discuss something that I know has been on your minds the past few weeks.

We live in an era of complicated questions and complex problems. Because of that it's easy for us to ignore the problems most important to the future of our economy and society.

Nothing jarred Montanans from the complacency more than this spring's diesel fuel shortage. Likewise, in Washington, nothing drove home the truth about our energy crisis than waiting in line for two hours for gasoline.

We've known for quite a few years that someday worldwide oil supplies would end. Since the 1973 oil embargo, we've known that the era of cheap, abundant gasoline and diesel fuel is over. And, we've been faced with the reality that this nation's security could be held hostage by a group of oil sheiks in the Middle East.

Today, the three most serious economic problems we must face as a nation are recession, the worldwide energy shortage, and inflation.

These three developments—and the crisis of confidence they have precipitated—will affect all Americans. They require all of us to exercise our imaginations and to utilize our resources more efficiently.

There are no easy answers to these problems. No magic solutions will appear, there is no quick fix.

More important, we must not be fooled or be deceived by simple answers to these problems.

There is an old phrase that says it best: To every complex problem there is a simple solution—and it's probably wrong.

I'm not going to propose my energy program today. Nor am I going to outline elaborate proposals to revitalize the world economy.

My message is more basic: we as a people must realize that there are limits to our consumption of energy.

In 1961, President Kennedy set a goal. The United States would mobilize an effort unlike any other in our history. New technologies—up to then only a dream—were devised, perfected and manufactured. At a time when this nation was suffering an identity crisis in the wake of the Bay of Pigs, and Sputnik, we picked ourselves up, and set out on our path to the Moon.

Ten years ago Friday—we succeeded. We

proved to the world we could do it. We were proud, and for good reason.

Today we have that same opportunity. President Carter has set our goal: cut our imports in half by 1990. To reach that goal, though, we must make the same effort. We need cars that use less gas. And although today's challenge is more difficult than placing a man on the Moon, it's a challenge and opportunity we should not avoid.

The small businessmen and women of the United States can play a crucial role in helping our nation achieve that goal.

You have been the entrepreneurs and innovators of our nation, developing new ways to solve our problems.

Our nation's strength lies in its people. That's our best hope. Small business has brought forth ways to deal with our problems in the past—and I fully expect it will do that again in the future. This conference should be most productive. ●